# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# DEFENCE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3975
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2000
FRENCH DEFENCE MINISTER`S VISIT TO INDIA
UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Defence Minister of France visited India during the month of May, 2000;

(b) the objectives of the visit;

(c) whether India had initially decided to buy old Mirage aircraft from France;

(d) whether these aircrafts were originally sold to Jorden in 1998;

(e) if so, the main reasons for purchasing these old Mirage; and

(f) the details of other issues discussed during the visit of French Defence Minister?

## Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a), (b) & (f): At the invitation of Raksha Mantri, Mr. Alain Richard, French Defence Minister visited India on May 18-20, 2000. During the visit matters related to bilateral Defence Cooperation, and regional and global security issues were discussed. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose the details of the discussions held.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government has no authentic information on this aspect.

(e) Does not arise.